

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /078 W
-----073069 221121Z /14
P 221002Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9498
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3702

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, ET
SUBJ: PUERTO RICO AND THE COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: A) USUN 03235; B) STATE 211462; C) ADDIS ABABA 3581

SUMMARY: MOFA OFFICIAL HAS CLEARLY INDICATED ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT NECESSARILY CONTINUE TO SHARE USG POSITION THAT PUERTO RICO IS DOMESTIC ISSUE. GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAS NOT YET MADE DECISION ON HOW TO VOTE IN COMMITTEE OF 24, AND WILL GIVE USG POSITION VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. EVENTUAL VOTE, EMBASSY CONCLUDES, WILL NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY AND WILL REFLECT ETHIOPIAN VIEW OF ITS OVERALL INTERESTS IN RELATION TO US AND OUR ADVERSARIES, PARTICULARLY THE CUBANS. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENT FOR AMBASSADOR WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FOR STATED PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PUERTO RICO. SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER IS FREQUENTLY INACCESSIBLE FOR MANY WEEKS TO WESTERN AMBASSADORS, DCM DELIVERED AIDE-MEMOIRE CONTAINING ALL POINTS REFTEL (B) TO AMERICAS DIVISION DIRECTOR BERHANE DERESSE ON AUG 21.

2. BERHANE, BEFORE EVER BEGINNING TO READ AID-MEMOIRE, CONFIDENTIAL

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POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD BEEN SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT TO CORRECT APPARENT EMBASSY MISINTERPRETATION OF CHAIRMAN MENGISTU'S STATEMENTS AT CREDENTIALS CEREMONY JULY 21. CHAIRMAN DID NOT SAY THAT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT SHARES USG VIEW THAT PUERTO RICO IS A DOMESTIC QUESTION, AS INDICATED IN EMBASSY'S RECENT AIDE-MEMOIRE ON SUBJECT (REFTEL C); INSTEAD HE HAD MERELY REVIEWED HISTORY OF US-ETHIOPIAN RE-

LATIONS AND HAD STRESSED TIMES WE HAD BEEN TOGETHER, E.G.,
ON PUERTO RICO VOTE AND EARLIER WHEN TWO NATIONS FOUGHT
UNDER UN BANNER. USG SHOULD DRAW NO CONCLUSIONS FROM CHAIR-
MAN'S STATEMENT ABOUT ANY ETHIOPIAN POSITIONS UNDER PRESENT
CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. DCM REPLIED THAT EMBASSY HAD NOT WISHED TO SEEM PRESUMP-
TIOUS OF ETHIOPIAN POSITION IN EARLIER NOTE, AND IT IS EXACT-
LY BECAUSE WE REALIZE THAT FORTHCOMING VOTE IN COMMITTEE 24
IS OCCASION FOR ETHIOPIA TO AGAIN CONSIDER ITS POSITION
THAT WE HAVE NOW MADE TWO DEMARCHES. FOR SAME REASON, AMBAS-
SADOR HAS ASKED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER. HE
ADDED THAT EMBASSY HAD, NEVERTHELESS, TAKEN POSITIVE NOTE
OF CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE OF PUERTO RICO ISSUE TO ILLUSTRATE
EXAMPLE OF GOOD RELATIONS IN PAST AND WE ARE HOPEFUL REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO ASSOCIATE IT-
SELF IN COMMITTEE OF 24 WITH PROCEDURAL MOTION TO AGAIN
DEFER PUERTO RICO QUESTION.

3. AT THIS POINT, BERHANE READ POINTS IN AIDE-MEMOIRE CARE-
FULLY, SAID THAT MINISTRY APPRECIATES RECEIVING SUCH DETAILED
REASONING, (WHICH WAS OBVIOUSLY CONVINCING TO BERHANE) AND
ASSURED DCM THAT USG POSITION WOULD BE GIVEN VERY CAREFUL
CONSIDERATION BEFORE INSTRUCTIONS ARE SENT TO NEW YORK.

4. EMBASSY AGREES WITH USUN (REFTEL A, PARA 2) THAT ETHIO-
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PIAN POSITION IS NOT LIKELY TO BE KNOWN UNTIL JUST BEFORE
VOTE, THAT BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR IS ABSTENTION AND THAT IS
NOT AT ALL CERTAIN. WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT VOTE WILL NOT
BE TAKEN LIGHTLY AND THAT THERE WILL BE CONCLUSIONS TO BE
DRAWN IN REFERENCE TO OUR OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONS ONCE
VOTE HAS BEEN TAKEN. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT DATE
VOTE IS TO BE TAKEN.

CHAPIN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 22 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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